

(Washington, DC)— Congresswoman Gwen Moore obtained \$2 million in research and development funds for DRS Power & Control Technologies, Inc. in the House Defense Appropriations bill for FY2007. DRS Technologies has a manufacturing plant that employs 380 Milwaukee-area residents and provides leading edge products and services to defense, government intelligence agencies, and commercial customers.

Moore requested this funding in a letter to Chairman C. W. Bill Young and Ranking Member John Murtha of the Defense Subcommittee earlier this year. If passed into law, the award will help DRS advance its groundbreaking work to develop a new Universal Solid-State Circuit Breaker (USSB).

“DRS manufactures key high-tech components for a modern and capable navy fleet. This type of highly technological manufacturing is a key ingredient for economic prosperity in our district,” Congresswoman Moore said. “If this funding is passed into law, DRS’ local development of revolutionary technology could mean more jobs for our area.”

DRS’ Universal Solid-State Circuit Breaker (USSB) uses high power semiconductors that eliminate the mechanical interfacing problems typically found in older circuit breakers, enabling them to automatically sense and resolve ship system power failures in a matter of mere seconds. The versatile USSB can be used for both DC and AC power of varying frequencies and combines new technology—solid-state interruption—with a mechanical switch. This improvement provides for a faster response to changes in an electrical system and isolates malfunctions that require maintenance. Further, the USSB is significantly lighter than the Navy’s current circuit breakers, which frees ship weight for fuel or other supplies and increases operational capability per ton.

The House Defense Appropriations bill is expected to pass when the House votes on it later this month. After passage, the Senate will consider its own version. Later in the year, a House-Senate conference will reconcile the two versions, at which time each chamber will vote on passage of the final version of the legislation.

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